

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10 IO-13 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3784

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-79

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR--ROLE OF MBFR WORKING GROUP

REF: STATE 157092

SUMMARY. SENIOR POLADS AGREED TO AUGUST 9 MEETING THAT MBFR WORKING GROUP SHOULD CONCENTRATE DURING COMING WEEKS ON DATA BASE AND COMBAT CAPABILITY, WITHIN FRAMWORK OF WORK PROGRAM GIVEN TO WORKING GROUP BY COUNCIL ON JULY 11, WHICH WAS CLOSELY PARALLELED BY FRG PROPOSAL OF AUGUST 7. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE STRESSED NEED FOR SPEEDY COMPLETION OF WORK ON MBFR DATA BASE AND ON RELATED NEED FOR U.S. INPUT. END SUMMARY.

1. MBFR WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN (ADMIRAL MINTER) GAVE RUN-DOWN ON STATUS OF VARIOUS WORKING GROUP PROJECTS WHICH WAS WIDELY WELCOMED BY MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF WORK ON DATA BASE, NOTING THAT WARSAW PACT DATA BASE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE BY END OF AUGUST AND THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THERE WERE GOOD PROSPECTS THAT NATO DATA BASE WOULD BE READY BY EARLY SEPTEMBER IF NATIONAL INPUTS (U.S. AND BELGIUM) WERE MADE AVAILABLE. ON COMBAT CAPABILITY, MINTER SAID HE FOUND UK PAPER (USNATO 3733 NOTAL) INTERESTING

BUT REFERRED IN THIS CONNECTION TO LENGTHLY PREVIOUS WORK IN NATO ON RELATIVE FORCE CAPABILITIES WHICH HAD NOT LED TO POSITIVE RESULTS. IN ANY EVENT, MINTER SAID IT WAS CLEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR WORKING GROUP TO REACH ANY CONCLUSIONS BY END OF WEEK OF AUGUST 13, AS TENTATIVELY SUGGESTED IN THE UK PAPER. MINTER ALSO REMINDED COMMITTEE THAT MUCH WORK HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY WORKING GROUP ON OTHER IMPORTANT SUBJECTS, SUCH AS VERIFICATION AND CONSTRAINTS. ON LATTER TWO SUBJECTS, MINTER SAID WORKING GROUP HAD GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE FOR TIME BEING UNTIL NAC AGREED ON ONE OF REDUCTIONS OPTIONS. IN CONCLUSION, MINTER ADVISED THAT WORKING GROUP WOULD INITIATE INTENSIVE WORK PROGRAM AT ITS AGUYST 14 MEETING AND WOULD HAVE FREQUENT MEETINGS DURING COMING WEEKS.

2. THERE WAS NO OBJECTIONS IN COMMITTEE TO MINTER'S PROPOSAL THAT WORKING GROUP GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO DATA BASE AND COMBAT CAPABILITY. AS ENTICIPATED, UK REP (THOMSON) STRESSED LONDON'S INTEREST IN PROGRESS ON COMBAT CAPABILITY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT YARDSTICK USED IN UK WAS "ARBITRARY PROPOSAL" WHICH LONDON WAS PREPARED RELINGUISH PROVIDED AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON "MILITARILY JUSTIFIABLE YARDSTICK." THOMSON ALSO WENT THROUGH FAMILIAR RECITATION OF UK CONCERNS ON MBFR, WHICH HE SUBSEQUENTLY REPEATED DURING DISCUSSION OF U.S. PAPER (SEPTTEL).

3. U.S. REP JOINED IN WELCOMING MINTER'S REPORT. HE NOTED THAT ADMIRAL MINTER'S PROPOSAL THAT WORKING GROUP SHOULD PUR HOLD ON FURTHER WORK ON VERIFICATION/CONSTRAINTS UNTIL REDUCTIONS OPTION AGREED HIGHLIGHTED NEED FOR RAPID PROGRESS IN AGREEING ON ALLIANCE MBFR POSITION. ON COMBAT CAPABILITY, U.S. REP SAID WE COULD AGREE TO WORKING GROUP'S EXAMINATION OF UK PAPER. HE RECALLED OUR DOUBTS ON UTILITY OF BOTH THIS EXERCISE AND CONCEPT BUT SAID WE WOULD LEAVE THESE UNTIL WORKING GROUP TOOK UP SUBJECT. PER REFTTEL, U.S. REP ADVISED THAT WE COULD AGREE TO TOPICS PROPOSED BY FRG REP FOR WORKING GROUP'S EXAMINATION AND STRESSED OUR INTEREST IN MAINTAINING CLOSE SPC-WORKING GROUP CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATIONSHIP DURING COMING WEEKS.

4. CANADIAN REP (MARSHALL) SUGGESTED THAT WORKING GROUP SHOULD NOT SPEND TOO MUCH TIME IN CONSIDERATION OF SACEUR'S ASSESSMENT OF APRIL 30 U.S. PAPER SINCE LATTER PAPER HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT OVERTAKEN BY SUBSEQUENT PRESENTATION OF U.S. JULY 27 PAPER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS. THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING IN COMMITTEE THAT WORKING GROUP SHOULD IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE TIE ITS PROGRAM AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE TO MOST PRESSING NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY COUNCIL AND SPC AND SHOULD AVOID WORK ON IMPORTANT, BUT LESS PRESSING SUBJECTS.
RUMSFELD

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